

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13161 231331Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 /058 W

----- 101384

O P 231236Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6772

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

UNCLAS BEIRUT 13161

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT PRESS REPORTING ON KIDNAPPING OF USIA OFFICERS
IN BEIRUT

1. BEIRUT MEDIA HANDLING OF GALLAGHER AND DYKES
KIDNAPPING OCT 27 GENERALLY FOLLOWS LINES OF EMBASSY
SPOKESMAN, PARTLY BECAUSE WAVE OF
KIDNAPPINGS, WHICH PAPERS DESCRIBE AS BETWEEN 200 AND
300, MURDER OF KIDNAPPED PLA MAJOR, AND OTHER SECURITY
AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS OVERSHADOW THIS MATTER LOCALLY.
ONLY SIGNIFICANT PRESS ENTERPRISING FOLLOWS.

2. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR MENTIONS THAT MEN HAVE DIPLOMATIC
PASSPORTS BUT ARE NOT ON AMERICAN EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC
LIST WHILE LEFTIST AL MUHARRIR SAYS THE TWO MEN DO NOT
ENJOY DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. (FACTS ARE THAT GALLAGHER
HAS DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT AND DYKES HAS OFFICIAL PASSPORT
AND THEY AND OTHER ESSENTIALLY TECHNICAL PERSONNEL ARE
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 13161 231331Z

NOT CARRIED ON DIPLOMATIC LIST).

3. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION IN LOCAL PRESS AS TO
NUMBER OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN CAR WITH GALLAGHER AND
DYKES BECAUSE OF CONFLICTING EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS,
(THERE WERE TWO WOMEN EMPLOYEES OF RSC WHO REGULARLY
RODE TO WORK WITH AMERICAN OFFICERS).

4. LEFTIST AS-SAFIR HAS PROBABLY ACCURATE LISTING OF
CONTENTS OF GALLAGHER CAR BASED ON SEARCH AFTER THEY HAD
BEEN TAKEN IN CAR FROM SITE OF KIDNAPPING. PAPER SAYS IT CONTAINED
50 SLIDES OF AMERICAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS OF FURNITURE,
AND "WIRELESS SET." (SLIDES AND FURNITURE PLANS
PRESUMABLY WERE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE USE IN A USIA PUBLICATION
AND RADIO WAS INDEED A WALKIE-TALKIE WHICH GALLAGHER
USED IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ROLE AS "WARDEN" IN EMBASSY'S
SYSTEM TO REACH RESIDENT AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN CASE OF
TELEPHONE FAILURE. GALLAGHER HAD ALREADY REPORTED THE
SET DEFECTIVE AND PLANNED TO BRING IT INTO THE
EMBASSY FOR REPAIRS DURING DAY.
GODLEY

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Enclosure: n/a
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Type: TE
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